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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: RAMPTON VISIT

REF: A. LONDON 397, B. KAUFMAN-RAICHT JANUARY 31 TELCON

- 1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS RAMPTON VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATING HMG MOVING TOWARD LESS RESTRICTIVE POLICY TOWARD NORTH SEA DEVELOPMENT.
- 2. WE UNDERSTAND (REF B) THAT ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR RAMPTON APPOINTMENTS WITH COMPANIES IN NEW YORK, PITTSBURGH, AND ELSEWHERE DURING LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR RAMPTON TO VISIT LEADING NEW YORK BANKS DURING HIS TRIP. IF THERE ARE SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTIONS OF RAMPTON SCHEDULE THAT EMBASSY CANNOT ARRANGE,

DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST.

- 3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HMG DECISION ON PRT RATE MAY BE FORTHCOMING AROUND END OF FEBRUARY. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF RAMPTON VISIT WOULD FOLLOW OR COINCIDE WITH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.
- 4. DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT APPOINTMENTS WITH

COMPANIES AND BANKS SHOULD PRECEDE WASHINGTON PORTION OF RAMPTON TRIP. THIS SEQUENCE WOULD PROVIDE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO HAVE SOME IMPACT ON HMG PARTICIPATION POLICY BY GIVING RAMPTON FIRST HAND EXPOSURE TO COMMERCIAL-FINANCIAL COMMUNITY VIEWS ON NORTH SEA DEVELOPMENT AND PRT BEFORE HE BEGINS TALKS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING RAMPTON ITINERARY OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETE, SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM WITHIN USG. KISSINGER

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